Dear Christina, there are certainly some McKillip novels that you would **not** like, but here are some recent ones that you might. Most of them are mature versions of classic fairy tales:

*Song for the Basilisk* (1998)

A novel about music, magic, and revenge. The lead character was rescued as a child from the ashes of his family home, and hidden among the bards of the music school on a remote island. He leaves to find out who he is, and why his family was destroyed, and becomes a music teacher in the palace of the man who killed his family. But he finds friends in unexpected places, and the story does not end quite as he expected.

*The Tower at Stony Wood* (2000)

This is a fantasy novel with a dream-like quality: one never quite knows what is actually going on (which you may not like). Neither do most of the characters, but the themes are borrowed from familiar folk tales. A woman in a tower embroiders scenes she sees in a mirror. A faithful knight leaves his one true love to go on a desperate and dangerous quest. A dragon guards a tower filled with stolen gold. Magic sleeps under the landscape, waiting.

“She saw the knight in the mirror at sunset. He rode alone down a road along a river. Where the black cloak he wore parted over his surcoat, she glimpsed towers of gold; the cloak fanned behind
his back down the horse’s golden flanks. The knight’s head was bowed, his face in shadow. The jewel in the pommel of the sword hanging from his saddle flashed a bloody crimson in the last ray of light. His hair, swept back and gathered into a silver ring at his neck, was black as jet...

She sorted through her threads with slender, bitten fingers, chose a needle and a square of linen. She threaded the needle and began with his face. The story would come later…”

Ombria in Shadow (2002)

There are two cities of Ombria: the obvious one above ground, and a mysterious shadow city. As the story opens, the prince of Ombria dies, and his mistress Lydea is being thrown into the streets by the wicked sorceress Domina Pearl. The story follows Lydea and a few other major characters through a resolution of Ombria’s problems.

In the Forests of Serre (2003)

This one is inspired by the Russian fairy tale of Baba Yaga, the witch who lives in the forest in a hut that walks around on chicken legs. The grief-stricken Prince Ronan becomes lost in the forest in more than one sense, and the princess who might be forced to marry him has enormous problems to deal with too. But it all turns out well in the end.
Od Magic (2005)

The sorceress Od established a school for magic in Kelior, but schools have a habit of ossifying, and the king seems rather to have taken control also. So Od sends some unusual characters to shake things up a little. Magic has subtleties and beauties that the school has forgotten about. As with In the Forests of Serre, there’s also a sub-plot about a princess facing an arranged marriage.

The Bards of Bone Plain (2010)

This is a Celtic-inspired fantasy about harper-bards (returning to the theme of music). What’s particularly interesting is that it opens in what one might call a “theologically liberal” bard school. The songs of magic that have been passed down over the centuries are obviously metaphors, they think: “Where... exactly, is Bone Plain? ... No one has yet found conclusive evidence for any particular place. Most likely it existed only in the realm of poetry. Or it was translated into poetry from some more practical, prosaic event, which a mortal bard might have a chance of enduring. As we know, stones do not speak, nor do cauldrons yield an unending supply of stew except in poetry.”

The reader knows how wrong this is, because the book has a parallel story thread involving magic, set several centuries in the past. And, eventually, the threads collide. It’s kind of fun.